

As is the case with all birds during their migrations, stragglers are left along the way either from exhaustion, injury or for less apparent reasons, so that we have winter records for Nova Scotia, Vermont and Wisconsin, due to some of the above causes, and for the same reasons we also have late May records for Longspurs in the southernmost States in which they winter.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Western Savanna Sparrow in North Carolina.—In looking over the Savanna Sparrows in the collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, my attention was called to a marked variation from the typical eastern form exhibited by the birds of the Hoopes Collection. This series, consisting of fourteen birds, was taken in the vicinity of Raleigh, North Carolina by H. H. and C. S. Brimley. The difference consists principally in the shorter and more finely pointed bill and in a less degree by the grayer plumage. A comparison established the fact that these specimens were identical with breeding birds of what is probably the western form (*Ammodramus sandwichensis alaudinus*) taken in North Dakota.

The dates of capture of the specimens from North Carolina are as follows:

Jan. 5, 1883.	April 30, 1890.
Jan. 14, 1888.	May 1, 1890.
Dec. 29, 1890.	April 17, 1891.
Nov. 11, 1891.	April 1, 1892.
Oct. 17, 1892.	April 21, 1892.
Dec. 20, 1892.	May 1, 1893.
Jan. 7, 1893.	May 11, 1893.

The fact that these records can be arranged in two groups, separated by the months of February and March, suggests that the birds are transients. Again, their numbers and the extended period of time during which they were taken negative the theory that they are stragglers.

These records should be interesting in connection with the observations of Mr. Loomis who has recorded the occurrences of western birds in Chester County, South Carolina.—HERBERT L. COGGINS, *Germantown, Pa.*

The Hooded Warbler in Massachusetts.—On the fifth of this month (September, 1901) I identified an adult male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*) in a line of old privet bushes in the Harvard Botanical Garden of this city. Although I did not kill the bird, there is no doubt as to its identity, for I was often not more than five feet from it and easily made out every characteristic of the species. I know of no other record of this species for Massachusetts.—ARTHUR C. COMEY, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Nesting of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) in Southern Massachusetts.—My young friend Mr. Henry S. Forbes has kindly

given me permission to publish the following interesting extracts from two letters which he has lately sent me.

In his first letter, dated at Naushon on July 7, 1901, he says: "This afternoon I had a most exciting bird experience. As I was riding through the Naushon woods I heard a peculiar whistle wholly new to me. I dismounted, tied my horse and followed up the sound. The author I found was a bird of Wren-like appearance and of about the size of a Song Sparrow but shorter and stouter. It had a nervous habit of squatting and jerking its body whenever it gave utterance to its whistled notes. Presently its mate came with food in her bill and I went off to let both birds settle down. As I was watching the male from a distance he suddenly began a most delicious song. A few minutes later I found the nest which contained three or four young nearly ready to fly. It was placed on the ground in a hole among some dry leaves, under the dead branches of a fallen tree, and was partly roofed over with leaves. I did not examine the interior of the nest closely as I did not wish to disturb the young. I thought at the time the birds must be Carolina Wrens and on coming home found that Mr. Chapman's description corresponded in almost every respect with what I had seen and heard. His representation of the song as *whee-udel, whee-udel* seems to me very good indeed."

Under date of August 12, 1901, Mr. Forbes writes again as follows: "Yesterday to my surprise a pair of Carolina Wrens appeared in the garden behind our house and stayed there all day. The male (I suppose sang several times and uttered a variety of queer notes, but the song did not seem to have quite the same ring as when I heard it in the deep woods. I wonder if this is the same pair and if so where the young are. When I revisited the nest a week after I found it, the whole family had left the vicinity. I saw more clearly on this pair, the white or yellowish line above the eye which the young in the nest had."

Mr. Minot's record (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. I, No. 3, Sept., 1876, p. 76) of a pair of Carolina Wrens which he saw in Roxbury about July 4, 1876, and that by Dr. Brewer (*Ibid.*, Vol. III, No. 4, Oct., 1878, p. 193), of a bird taken in Lynn on July 6, 1878, have of course already led us to suspect that the species occasionally breeds in eastern Massachusetts, but Mr. Forbes is, I believe, the first observer who has been fortunate enough to definitely establish the fact. There would seem to be no reason why the birds should not continue to resort to Naushon, for the grand old forest which covers so large a part of that island is admirably suited to their requirements. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Massachusetts Bird Notes. — *Ionornis martinica*. — Another instance of the occurrence of this species in northern Essex County has come to my notice. In June of the present year I saw at the residence of Mrs. Wm. S. Horner of Georgetown a mounted specimen of the Purple Gallinule. Mrs. Horner informs me that the bird was shot by a local gunner in the spring "several years ago" (probably not less than ten years) in a